

REMARKS

The applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiner Dupuis and his supervisor for the courtesy of granting a telephone interview on the above-identified patent application. At the interview proposed claims were discussed but not entered. It was agreed that the below amendments to the preamble of claims 1, 2 and 5-10 would place those claims in allowable form.

In regard to the remaining claims 11- 20, amendments were proposed that would overcome the 103 rejections. However, examiner Dupuis advised the applicant's attorney that the amendment would result in a new rejection based on the Jones disclosure 2004/0096178, which showed two optical leads with a third optical lead between the two optical leads. It was noted that Jones does not recognize the problem solved by applications invention nor does he provide a solution, More specifically Jones provides an apparatus for deliberate attenuation of a signal through his optical fibers. In response to discussion of the Jones reference, Examiner Dupuis suggested that if the claims were amended similar to claim 1, that is, to include the four optical fibers that such claims could overcome an anticipated rejection based on Jones.

Accordingly applicant submits amended claims 11-20. Briefly, independent claims 11 and 15 have been amended to bring out the relationship between the four optical leads. Similarly, the method claim,16 has been amended to method of forming a twist free optical coupling through the use of four optical leads. To make the first, second, third and fourth terminology consistent between claims the claims 11-20 have been amended

accordingly. With the amendment to the independent claims to place them in allowable form it is submitted that the dependent claims thereto are also allowable.

It is submitted that the claims 1,2 and 5-20 are now in allowable form. In the event the office has any questions or suggestions regarding the amended claims the applicant's attorney Carl L. Johnson can be reached at the 651-433-4059.